

# ENABLING A SERVICE PROVIDER TO PROVIDE INTRANET SERVICES

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system allows a service provider to provide Intranet services remotely by  
5 assigning private virtual servers to customers. Each customer addresses transmissions to one or  
more private virtual servers using private addresses from the customer's private Intranet. The  
addresses of different private virtual servers do not have to be unique and may overlap.  
Customers exchange privately-addressed transmissions with the service provider using tunnels to  
traverse the local or regional network connecting the customer with the service provider. The  
10 service provider routes the transmissions to the relevant private virtual server belonging to the  
customer that sent the transmission. The service provider also routes privately-addressed  
transmissions back to individual customers using tunnels.